

LEVEL ONE



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"WHAT I SAY UNTO YOU I SAY UNTO ALL, WATCH."—JESUS

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*Focused on "Integrity"

Founded in 1898 by Mary Baker Eddy,
author of the Christian Science textbook,
Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures



Marca Registrada

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The spiritual basis of integrity

RICHARD A. NENNEMAN

The way to achieve integrity has been variously described, from the pragmatic wisdom of George Washington in his farewell address that "honesty is always the best policy" to what William Shakespeare wrote in *Hamlet*: "To thine own self be true."

But without innate integrity, how can one be truly honest? And without an understanding of one's true selfhood, how can one be true to himself?

Actually, one manifests integrity to the degree he acknowledges his selfhood as God's reflection and understands the God he reflects. In this sense, integrity is identified with spiritual completeness, or wholeness, in which man images all the attributes of God. Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science, explains that man's real being is the perfect image of his Maker. Using the analogy of a mirror, she writes: "Now compare man before the mirror to his divine Princi-

ple, God. Call the mirror divine Science, and call man the reflection. Then note how true, according to Christian Science, is the reflection to its original.”¹

We often speak of the integrity of an artistic object or of a building created by an architect. What we mean is that the piece of art or the building is true to its purpose or design objectives. In *Science and Health*, God is defined with names used or implied in the Scriptures—Life, Love, Truth, Mind, Spirit, Soul, and Principle. Our integrity consists in being true to our purpose—to express the names, or nature, of God. Divine Life must be expressing itself in man who is vivacious and vigorous. Mind must be unfolding itself through creation that expresses intelligence and vision. The outcome of Soul must have beauty and joy. And since man’s parent is Love as well as Principle, the expression of Principle combines undeviating law with tender love. In short, integrity is nothing less than the allness of God mirrored in the completeness of man.

Seeing man as the image of God involves a radical departure from the material sense view of man as flesh and bones with a mind inside. But it is the spiritual view of man Christ Jesus had that enabled him to do his healing work. And it is this view that each of us is free to adopt, bringing Christ, Truth, into our lives as well. Mrs. Eddy writes, “As mortals give up the delusion that there is more than one Mind, more than one God, man in God’s likeness will appear, and this eternal man will include in that likeness no material element.”²

This view, held in consciousness and practiced in daily life, reveals man’s individual wholeness, or integrity. God, being all-powerful and ever present, causes man to eternally express His wholeness in every aspect of his activity. The knowledge that integrity is spiritually based helps protect the individual from any fear that he could ever lose his integrity. The Psalmist said, “Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide.”³ Integrity, in its highest human expression, is a state of moral character and spirituality in which the individual so clearly reflects the divine qualities constituting the real man that he finds it impossible to

act toward others in any way that deviates from those qualities.

Man's integrity stems from his being the complete reflection of God. Nothing exists to mar or break this perfect relationship. Spiritually considered, integrity is not some human behavioral characteristic to be modified at will. It is undeviating in its expression. We may often speak of one's "personal integrity," but *personal* could imply something that starts with a mortal and is his own exclusive possession. Integrity in its spiritual sense is universal, although it is individually demonstrated.

True being expresses God's wholeness. Man is never stupid, since he expresses the divine intelligence. He is never apathetic, since Life expressed is eternally fresh. He is never insensitive, since Soul expresses all feeling. Discerning these truths, we see the correlation of individual integrity with honesty. We will be truly honest to the degree we understand that Principle creates only a righteous and law-abiding man. We are never without the highest standards to follow in all our moral conduct, since we have undeviating divine Principle to demonstrate.

In turn, our constant expression of integrity protects us from being harmed by those who might seem less than honest in their dealings with us. If we see our honesty as coming under the law of God's unbroken relationship with man, this will annihilate the seeming effect of any action based on anything less than integrity. As the Bible tells us, "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."⁴

The world needs our integrity. It needs it not only as a personal expression of human morality, but as an individual demonstration of being true to ourselves—not to a fleeting, material sense of selfhood, composed of contradictory qualities, but to our spiritual selfhood clothed in God's attributes. Such integrity, expressed as undeviating honesty, constant vigor, intelligence, joyfulness, and warmth, will be felt by others as the force of Christian character. And it is, for integrity redeems the emptiness of a life that is not supported by Principle with the fulfillment that characterizes real manhood—man living in accord with his divine Principle, God.

¹ *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, pp. 515-516; ² *ibid.*, p. 191; ³ Ps. 26:1; ⁴ Prov. 11:3.

Morality without conflict

BARBARA COOK

Individuals who have strict codes of moral behavior can't accept the concept that a situation, however complex, can wholly determine a moral standard. And yet those who question the necessity of changeless standards often do so from the most compassionate motives—the desire to love rather than condemn people (including themselves) who seem to fall short.

Can we possibly love our fellowman and maintain an undeviating standard at the same time? Can we possibly love ourselves legitimately—serve our own best interests—without bending standards?

In order to answer these questions, we'd have to start by finding the absolute standard of being (as one would seek a standard in music or mathematics) and then understand its application in life. Perfect God and perfect man—that's the unchanging spiritual standard. Man—each one of us in his real, spiritual being—is an expression of perfect God and can never decline from this perfection. "The standard of perfection was originally God and man," writes our Leader, Mrs. Eddy. "Has God taken down His own standard, and has man fallen?"¹

The ideal man, created by God, is intelligent, strong, beautiful, sinless, loving. Through the study of Christian Science we begin to learn and to demonstrate the unreality of sin and the reality of our sinless selfhood as the son of God. The veneer of mortality starts to peel away. We become more loving, more honest, more faithful and temperate. And then we realize that morality is a natural result of waking up to the spiritual and only real standard. Striving to demonstrate God's nature through obedience to the Christ (our individual link to the standard of perfection) leads to increased fidelity, integrity, and health—human evidences of a deeper understanding of divine Love, Truth, and Life.

This understanding of the nature of God and His expression is the means by which the apparent conflict between fidelity to truth (the desire to uphold and obey the rules) and fidelity to love (the desire to love humanity) is resolved. Why? Because God is not sometimes Truth and occasionally Love. He is indivisibly, omnipresently, and eternally both Truth and Love. "Christian Science reveals Truth and Love as the motive-powers of man,"² Mrs. Eddy tells us in *Science and Health*. Man, reflecting God in every way, is always motivated by Truth and Love *simultaneously*, not separately. How does this work—how does it heal—in the actual practice of dealing with our fellowman?

Christ Jesus' approach to the adulteress is a poignant illustration of such practice. The accusers were ready to stone the woman. Jesus, whose life was certainly the very model of Christian love, didn't try to disperse the crowd by asking them to consider the circumstances that might have brought the woman to her present condition. The Christ, Truth, provided Jesus with the very words that would simultaneously condemn the crowd's hypocrisy and humble them with love; not one of them could honestly consider himself to have lived sinlessly. So they went away morally rebuked and challenged. Turning then to the woman he asked, "Hath no man condemned thee?" When she answered, "No man, Lord," Jesus added, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more,"³ thereby simultaneously condemning the act of adultery and forgiving the woman. One can easily believe that she went away healed.

Personal condemnation would have killed her; leniency would have released her. But both of these approaches would have been based on the misconception of man as a sinning mortal, inseparable from sin. The Saviour's pure consciousness included the understanding that sin is no more part of God's offspring than a mirage is part of a landscape.

What about the love we offer ourselves? How does the spiritual standard of perfect God and perfect man relate to our own human behavior? To illustrate: If we think that creativity is separate from or outside moral laws, we have to remember that God is both creative Soul and lawmaking Principle. Consequently, in Christian

Science, there can be no true and lasting creativity without integrity. If we think that gambling, cheating on our income tax, deceiving a marriage partner, receiving or paying a bribe, can satisfy, we have to remember that divine Love is also unerring Truth and substantial Spirit. Therefore no degree of dishonesty or indulgence in games of chance can ever represent genuine love for ourselves. If we think we can gain a greater measure of success in business by conspiring to destroy a competitor, we have to remember that intelligent Mind is also divine Life, whose action sustains and perpetuates but never destroys.

Not long ago my husband and I fell into the trap of believing that we could benefit ourselves by going along with a popular but unquestionably illegal practice—that of not declaring all purchases at customs when reentering the country. However, as we were returning on the plane from our recent trip abroad, I was tormented by indecision, guilt, and confusion. Did I really believe that there could be an exception to the standard of honesty I had always lived by? We had totally relied on God in the working out of every detail of our trip, and we had so much to be grateful for.

I knew I had to turn wholeheartedly to God. As I became calm, a number of thoughts came, among them: "Render therefore unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's; and unto God the things that are God's"⁴ and "Be not conformed to this world."⁵ And finally our Leader's statement in the textbook: "Entirely separate from the belief and dream of material living, is the Life divine, revealing spiritual understanding and the consciousness of man's dominion over the whole earth."⁶

Suddenly I wasn't confused. The distinction between the divine standard—"the Life divine" with its eternal laws of limitless substance—and "the belief and dream of material living" with its constantly changing conditions and quantities of supply, health, and happiness, came clearly into focus. I knew that in order to really care for ourselves now, we could make no excuses, find no loopholes. We had to condemn—not ourselves, not the customs laws, but the mortal sense of divisible substance. We had to claim our immortal being, endowed with Spirit's limitless substance. But to demonstrate limitless substance without truth would be impossi-

ble! We had to see that the origin and motivating power of our being—our God—was simultaneously Love, Truth, Principle, Spirit—for all.

On arrival we freely declared everything at customs, did not have to open a single bag, and paid the duty owed. In the year that has passed since then, we have demonstrated more consistent, unfluctuating, and abundant supply than ever before. We moved very naturally a degree higher in the scale of genuine morality.

However sticky the moral dilemma appears to be, *if we are humbly and honestly willing* to accept a solution, we can always trust the Christ to interpret and translate the divine standard in a way precisely relevant to the problem.

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 470; ² *ibid.*, p. 490; ³ John 8:10, 11; ⁴ Matt. 22:21; ⁵ Rom. 12:2; ⁶ *Science and Health*, p. 14.

Standing for the right

JOAN V. GERVILLE-RÉACHE

In open democratic societies a free press plays an important role in uncovering any abuse of power on the part of those in government or politics. Certain government agencies, parliamentary or congressional investigative committees, and citizens' groups provide other useful checks against political misdemeanor.

But the very existence of these safeguards shows that no human means are adequate in themselves to prevent unethical practices or to ensure 100 percent integrity in political behavior.

Why? Isn't it because the nature of the carnal, mortal mind is to deceive the unwary into accepting dishonest, expedient, or selfish ways? This can affect even those in high office. The same car-

nal mind would promote apathy among the voters, sometimes under the guise of disenchantment with politicians—an attitude that in turn can have the effect of allowing political malpractice to flourish.

Political incorruptibility is always the responsibility of the individual, and this means both the person actively engaged in politics and the private citizen or voter. All our decisions and actions should be based on the moral law, the application in human affairs of the fundamental Principle, God. Insidious suggestions coming from a supposed mind apart from God are to be roundly rejected.

The Bible contains magnificent examples of men and women of honor, standing for what they knew to be right against the machinations of evil and finding, as a result, complete protection from the dangers threatening them.

Among them was Nehemiah, whose political foes tried by every wile they could think of to thwart and undo his challenging work of rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah's uprightness was unassailable because it was based on his understanding of the omnipotence and supremacy of God. At every stage in this important project, the Hebrew leader turned to God in prayer before he undertook any action. He knew that his protection and that of his people lay in steadfast obedience to God's law of righteousness. He must have glimpsed that integrity was an inherent part of his true nature as the expression of God.

Spiritual intuition also enabled him to detect the sinister motives behind the blandishments of Sanballat and his fellow conspirators and to dismiss them with such vigorous statements as: "The God of heaven, he will prosper us"¹ and "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down"² and "Should such a man as I flee?"³

Centuries later Christ Jesus assured us of the safety embodied in spiritual integrity when he said: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven."⁴ His Christly purity was such that the devil—the carnal mind or impersonal evil—was unable to find a chink in his spiritual armor.

Integrity, coming from the Latin word *integer*—meaning untouched, whole, entire—implies the utmost honesty. In practicing Christian Science it means standing fast for divine Principle, holding to one's highest sense of moral right—not with the rigidity or stubbornness of human will but with the humility of knowing that God, or Mind, governs all with total impartiality, love, and justice.

Pointing to the insidious effect of human will, Mrs. Eddy writes: "The exercise of will brings on a hypnotic state, detrimental to health and integrity of thought. This must therefore be watched and guarded against. Covering iniquity will prevent prosperity and the ultimate triumph of any cause."⁵

A politician faces enormous pressures in the form of demands from his constituents or from aggressive lobbyists. To resist such pressures and stand for what he sees as the highest right, even if it goes against the current of popular feeling, requires moral courage, which is closely allied to integrity. To placate human opinion at the expense of rectitude is shortsighted and self-defeating in the long run.

To impress the public, some politicians at times give in to the temptation to exaggerate certain aspects of a situation so that the facts become blurred and popular thinking becomes confused. Political rhetoric and its distortions call for watchfulness on the part of the listener. Like Nehemiah, he must refuse to be taken in by mere words or surface impressions and constantly strive to sift fact from fiction. To stimulate and facilitate this sifting process, we have the daily newspaper, *The Christian Science Monitor*, established by our Leader, Mrs. Eddy. One aspect of the role of this paper is to get behind glib statements and overhasty conclusions and to weigh the various elements in a situation in order to arrive at the facts.

Expressions like "he (or she) is playing politics" or is "very political" have come into widespread use, often with a derogatory overtone. They are commonly heard in most organized groups, where people have to work together. Sometimes the reason for a person's removal from office or his transfer is said to be "political," the implication being that the motive behind the transfer was unethical or a matter of somebody else's self-interest, jealousy, or

ambition. Unless it is in accord with morality, the motivation for any decision or action has its origin in the carnal mind, which is always a wrongdoer.

The individual who seems to be the victim of misguided or unjust action can expect to see the situation rectified or reversed to the degree that he is loyal to God as Principle and to his understanding of God's universal control. Christianly scientific prayer in such a case calls for recognizing the perfect harmony of God's universe, where all identities abide in unity and brotherly love. Each fulfills its individual mission of expressing God. There is no clash of interests or personalities in this universe; no striving for place or power; no conspiratorial plot to demean, demote, or "buy" another; no aggressor and no victim; no sinister force to impel underhanded or dishonest action.

All true action stems from God, Mind. Human will, personal ambition, and jealous motives have no place in God's universe, where Love reigns supreme. Mind's ideas are subject to only one influence—the beneficent influence of Spirit, Soul. Mrs. Eddy reassures us, "He who refuses to be influenced by any but the divine Mind, commits his way to God, and rises superior to suggestions from an evil source."⁶

It is our duty as citizens to uphold political integrity in our society, and we do so first in our own thought. Our realization of the oneness of Mind, and of the supreme fact that in reality man is the perfect expression of this perfect Mind, must extend to embrace our community, our nation, our world. As we steadfastly cling to the basic truths of Christian Science, integrity will characterize every facet of our experience. We can also expect to see it evidenced in a degree of cleaner politics and political practices at every level of government.

¹ Neh. 2:20; ² 6:3; ³ v. 11; ⁴ Matt. 5:11, 12; ⁵ *Science and Health*, p. 446; ⁶ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 113.

Family integrity

BRYAN G. POPE

The Soviet Union and the United States, different in so many ways, share a common statistic—one in three of today's marriages is predicted to end in divorce. How to build and preserve the integrity of families should, therefore, be a vital question for society.

A happy home may seem something of a miracle. Looked at more closely, it can be seen for what it is, the natural effect of mutual love, unselfish motives, and moral and spiritual values in the lives of its members. Such values are cohesive. Reverse them to hate, selfishness, and immoral and unspiritual values—the stuff of which incompatibility is often made—and one can see how the explosion of divorce is triggered.

Today many are rejecting marriage in the belief that vows are useless—as, indeed, they are if they are unaccompanied by mutual honesty and real affection. But to throw away the institution of marriage on the plea that many marriages fail is as unwise as building all brick walls without cement because some apparently well-cemented walls have fallen down. What is required is stronger “cement” for marriages.

Mrs. Eddy, the one Christian Scientists gratefully acknowledge as their Leader, writes in *Science and Health*, “Beholding the world's lack of Christianity and the powerlessness of vows to make home happy, the human mind will at length demand a higher affection.”¹ She makes it clear that to find this all-important higher affection we need to turn to God, infinite Love. As with the family, so with the family of nations—both are preserved or torn apart for much the same reasons. Again, Mrs. Eddy writes, “It is our ignorance of God, the divine Principle, which produces apparent discord, and the right understanding of Him restores harmony.”²

Obligatory dogma, ritualistic ceremonies, and blind belief are, in themselves, not enough. Adherence to the Ten Commandments,

when based only on the fear that lack of it eventually causes a remote, avenging God to consign us to a fiery hell, manifestly is not enough. Perhaps it is becoming clearer to this tiny planet's inhabitants, who are instantly able day by day to see with their own eyes each other's agonies, that we make our own hell. Each family adds its contribution—its own degree of heaven or hell—to the sum total.

As a young man I had to shake myself free from confusing and unhelpful concepts of God and Christ Jesus. Only then could I begin to understand the Almighty and the life and works of Jesus, the one who so perfectly demonstrated here on earth man's ever-present spiritual link with God. Before my own family was established, some measure of this newfound understanding in Christian Science brought inner peace and safety in wartime combat conditions. With this positive proof that God is "a very present help in trouble,"³ I found it perfectly natural within the family to rely on the same source. The equally natural effect of this was not only physical healing for members of the family when the need arose but also a family unity that has stood the test of years.

For some parents there is the temptation to pour over their children a veritable torrent of admonitory words. "Do as I say because I say so!" is no solution. But neither is the lack, sometimes found today, of effective guidelines in the home. We come eventually to learn the wisdom of the well-known dictum, "Example is always more efficacious than precept." Listening with our children for the still small voice of infinite, intelligent Mind, in whose hand (presence) we are, we obey Him. This listening is not only wisdom but also health, peace, freedom from family friction, and much besides.

There is, of course, an even more important gain—a growing conviction that real life is spiritual, never in mortal man. Spiritual conviction is founded on the rock of much experience—on having proved in a measure that the Divine Being, who is God, is always caring for the human need; but we need to be willing to listen and to let Him.

The Ten Commandments are as relevant as ever. The family that breaks them whenever one or more of its members thinks it convenient to do so exhibits chaos, not integrity. Unless we are

honest (to the point of admitting our own mistakes) with our children, how can we expect them to be honest with us or with others? The innate innocence of children often enables them to detect dishonesty where an adult might think it well hidden.

So far we have been speaking mostly of what might be called the foothills. These lead to the mountain peaks—the fatherhood and motherhood of God, and the spiritual male and female that God has created. We need more than just a glimpse of divine facts in order to prove their presence in the lives of each member of the family.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Ephesians, had this to say: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)"—the promise, as he points out, being "that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."⁴

At first glance this might seem to put all the responsibility on one's children; but "obey your parents in the Lord" must mean much more than blind obedience; it must mean to obey in the Christly understanding of the father-motherhood of God, which Christ Jesus possessed so fully. Paul went on to point to parents' responsibilities: "And, ye fathers [and mothers, we might add], provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."⁵

The task of bringing a family under the government of God is shared, then, by parents and children. The same divine laws of harmony apply to all generations. Understanding something of man's spiritual relationship to God, both parents and children see beyond the parent-child relationship. Parents in particular, though needing to care for every stage of their children's development, are able to see their offspring not merely as infants, children, or adolescents—one day to be adults—but as Spirit's ideas, already possessing integrity as children of the one eternal Parent. As they see their children, so can their children see them. When one thinks of the millstones—including the belief that we are limited mortals—we so easily hang about each other's necks, one realizes that the spiritual freedom this higher seeing confers is priceless. On it is safely founded the real integrity of any family.

Willingness to listen for and understand the guidance of God, the governing Principle of all that really is, has enabled my family to work out many problems, and often in surprising and unexpected ways. We have learned a great deal, but not by any means all, about respecting each other's spiritual integrity. Such respect in any family ensures that no one within the home is regarded as a second-class citizen; nor are children considered third-class citizens; all are first class in the eye of God and of each other.

In a home of real integrity, children are not looked upon as having to be walking advertisements for their parents' virtues. Parents and children alike are to some extent living testimonials to the liberating effect of obeying the one Parent of us all. Such a home frees its occupants to give of their best. It can only be a blessing to the place where it is.

A mere fourteen pages of the Christian Science textbook are devoted to marriage, but they have lifted the eyes of countless people toward new and far better horizons. Beside the marginal heading "Chord and discord" we find this: "Ill-arranged notes produce discord." In the same paragraph Mrs. Eddy continues, "Unselfish ambition, noble life-motives, and purity,—these constituents of thought, mingling, constitute individually and collectively true happiness, strength, and permanence."⁶

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 65; ² *ibid.*, p. 390; ³ Ps. 46:1; ⁴ Eph. 6:1-3; ⁵ v. 4; ⁶ *Science and Health*, p. 58.

*Put on therefore, as the elect of God,
holy and beloved, bowels of mercies,
kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;
forbearing one another, and forgiving one another,
if any man have a quarrel against any
And above all these things put on charity,
which is the bond of perfectness.*

Colossians 3:12-14

Through Spirit's lens

JOHN EDWARD YEMMA

One of an occasional series of articles by young people who have in recent years become Christian Scientists. They explain how they became interested in Christian Science, what convinced them of its utility and truth, and how its teachings have changed their lives.

Several years ago when I was just out of college, I worked in the regional communication center of an international news service. Like many young newsmen, I was aggressive and materially oriented. With cool cynicism I believed that the bigger the drama, the larger the catastrophe, the weirder the event (and the more thunderously I reported it), the more successful I would be. If an oil well exploded in the area while I was working, so much the better, for I saw such an event as an opportunity for my byline to receive national exposure. I was relatively successful, rising quickly from trainee to *de facto* news editor for nine states.

My experience, however, was the product of a mentality that valued the fleeting and mortal rather than the stable and eternal. The more attention I paid to chaotic news, the more chaotic was the news that came my way. Once, on what would normally have been a quiet Sunday morning at work, I found myself scrambling madly to cover a hostage drama downstate, a political controversy at the capital, a family tragedy in another region—as well as routine news. Daylong I bent to the task, dispatching words of turmoil, sending bulletins and updated leads to newspapers and radio stations across the nation.

That evening, just as I was wrapping up the day's events, I glanced out of the office window and saw a huge explosion in the night sky. The phones began ringing; the office was in an uproar.

A railroad tank car had ignited in the northern part of the city. In full view of my eyes! I worked late into the night.

Later, at home, I lay awake thinking of all the chaos I had been reporting. Helplessness swept over me. I saw a cold, cruel, out-of-control universe, an absurd life of breakdown and disorder. I would not have been surprised in the next moment to have had to jump out of bed to dodge a falling meteorite!

Around that time I was introduced to the metaphysical logic contained in the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, the Discoverer of Christian Science. I had always felt there was a God at the source of creation, but I could never reconcile this vague thought with the roar of bad events in the news world. Now, however, with Mrs. Eddy's loving, scientific explanations and a new-found understanding of the Bible, I began to see the irreconcilable difference between what's real and what's unreal. These words of Christ Jesus' brought comfort: "It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail."¹ At first, my senses—from which I believed my news-reporting talents were drawn—protested the notion of their invalidity. Yet gradually, as I opened my thought to the timeless, unlimited Truth, evidence of universal order became apparent in my personal experience.

At work I found myself searching the day's news for currents that pointed to Truth, Life, and Love as the intelligent cause behind events. This is not to say I ignored turmoil or controversy. I still treated them with concern, but without reveling in them. Instead, I saw "bad news" as notice of a problem needing the healing insight of Christian Science.

Soon I noticed my life beginning to improve. Without becoming a Pollyanna, I was becoming less an unthinking chronicler of catastrophe and more an intelligent writer. The roaring dragon of mortal mind, I found, never produced a bite that hurt real being. Around that time the opportunity came up to become a writer for a magazine that was removed from the compelling immediacy of daily news. I used this opportunity to evolve my talents in a more thoughtful direction.

Order and harmony were established in my experience. For the first time in my adult life, my cynicism vanished. With divine

order proceeding from Principle, all that follows—all true existence—has to be orderly. And so, to some degree, it was proved. Mrs. Eddy observes, "The world would collapse without Mind, without the intelligence which holds the winds in its grasp."²

There's not a facet of my life that hasn't been uplifted and blessed by an increasing spiritualization of thought.

¹ Luke 16:17; ² *Science and Health*, p. 209.

God's allness dispels misery

HELEN W. ENGLISH

A woman driver passed a large billboard that read, "You are in allergy country" and suggested a medicine for relief.

If I accepted allergy as something real, she thought, I would indeed need relief, because I would be bowing down to the idolatry of matter! She knew that arming herself against the suggestion of being allergic to certain substances meant knowing the nothingness of matter as a necessary corollary of the allness of God. It meant seeing what is true of God and His spiritual idea, man. So she restated the first words of the advertisement: "You are in God's country."

God instructed Moses, "Turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the Lord your God."¹ We should take heed not to accept materialistic suggestions. Mrs. Eddy states in *Science and Health*, "The idols of civilization are far more fatal to health and longevity than are the idols of barbarism."² If we give consent to a false belief, we cannot complain if the lie appears to develop. We must refuse our consent.

A hypersensitivity to a specific substance or condition, a strong aversion—these are two of the accepted meanings of the word "allergy." To believe that we must react to material substances or be

disabled by them is to believe that matter is more powerful than Spirit, God. In Psalms we read, "The Lord is King for ever and ever."³ God is ever present and all-powerful.

Since there is only one Mind, God, there is no mortal mind to believe in allergy or to accept it. Matter, fear, inflammation, and discordant, irritated thought have no place in God's kingdom. Hay fever has no reality nor activity in God's universe where all is spiritual and good. Nor can there be a return of a suggestion that never existed in the first place. Mrs. Eddy explains: "Since God is All, there is no room for His unlikeness. God, Spirit, alone created all, and called it good. Therefore evil, being contrary to good, is unreal, and cannot be the product of God."⁴

The Bible tells us that "affliction cometh not forth of the dust, neither doth trouble spring out of the ground."⁵ To believe that pollen or dust can control us is to attach our thought to a god of our own making. The belief of hay fever cannot find lodgment in a thought filled with Truth and Love.

Because divine Love fills all space, there is no room for anything unlike good. Therefore we need not fear our environment. We don't need to fear temperature, rainfall, or pollen count. Our true status as the children of God is one of unchanging perfection, incapable of discord. Seasons and climates do not rule man's existence. God governs all, as Christ Jesus proved.

Whether it calls itself the body, the air, or the dust, matter has no reality. The allness of God precludes any substance or effect in material elements. Spirit is the only reality. Life is the only activity going on, and Mind is the one intelligence, governing all. As a child of Spirit, man reflects health and freedom, not just intermittently but eternally.

We can know that our real environment cannot be contaminated by false suggestions or world beliefs. Allergies have no power to establish themselves as laws. God's law is the only law that rules, and God's law has never been repealed. Divine Principle, God, by His law of changeless purity, gives man exemption from evil influences. Love's purity is always present, and man expresses that purity.

Sometimes we become allergic to people. Personal sense reacts.

We find ourselves feeling antipathy to another's remarks or assertions. The Psalmist advises, "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil."⁶ Correcting our thought through prayer, we relieve the pressure, mentally and physically. We can know that in God's kingdom of ever-present harmony there is no personal sense to manifest itself as exaggerated reaction, hostility, or belligerency. Man can harbor only good. Man is not contradictory or inconsistent; he is an idea of Love; and as we understand this, we express forbearance and good will.

Omnipotent divine Love is the only real influence in any situation. When we are loving and forgiving, this attitude helps to open the way to healing. A young woman who was having marital problems and had suffered for several weeks with hay fever visited a Christian Science practitioner. The practitioner helped her erase antipathy to another's actions and reactions. A clear realization that, in the allness of God, man is always manifesting his spiritual nature in the nowness of things healed the woman of hay fever overnight.

We need to watch against taking in suggestions of hostile climate, bad office environment, small wars at home, or undesirable neighborhood. Since man lives in the consciousness of God, he cannot escape the allness of God. This allness surrounds his very being. The everywhereness of God is effective now. Understanding the allness of God and the nothingness of matter removes the miseries of allergy. Speaking of the Christian Scientist, Mrs. Eddy explicitly states: "His medicine is Mind—the omnipotent and ever-present good. His 'help is from the Lord,' who heals body and mind, head and heart; changing the affections, enlightening the misguided senses, and curing alike the sin and the mortal sinner."⁷

Since man is the infinite expression of the one omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniactive God, man is uncontaminated. We can therefore prove that our health is controlled by the laws of Spirit and that we express completeness and unrestricted ease. Divine Mind governs us, Truth frees us, Soul rests us, and divine Love cares for us.

¹ Lev. 19:4; ² *Science and Health*, p. 173; ³ Ps. 10:16; ⁴ *Science and Health*, p. 339; ⁵ Job 5:6; ⁶ Ps. 37:8; ⁷ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 268.

Prayer that arrests crime

The United States Government recently reported that violent crime rose 17 percent during the first quarter of this year. Some other western countries are also reporting increases. This latest rise in crime may perhaps be attributed to economic recession and inflation, but the basic disposition toward crime must be present for economic factors to have such an effect.

All mortal, matter-based thought is in some way a violation of the first commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."¹ The premise of such mortal-mindedness is that there are gods—or minds—many, capable of thinking and acting contrary to the nature of the one divine Mind. Paul recognized this lawless character of matter-based thought when he wrote, "The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."² Even if there were full employment and all the presumed social preconditions of crime were eliminated, there would still be crime. Why? Because the underlying source of evil—ungodlike thinking—has not been challenged and because the tendency of this pseudo intelligence is criminal. Its basic inclination is defiance of God's law. Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, "Mortal mind, not matter, is the criminal in every case; and human law rightly estimates crime, and courts reasonably pass sentence, according to the motive."³

The task of controlling crime can seem like trying to pull up poison ivy that has—let's say—taken over a bed of ivy. One pulls up a tendril here and a vine there, but as long as the central root is untouched, the vines will once again appear. It may seem that a number of public measures could substantially reduce crime in the United States; tighter gun-control laws, job programs for youngsters, a more streamlined judicial system are among the proposals. And such measures may have an important role to play in contain-

ing crime. But we can through prayer thwart the essential criminal—the carnal mind and its ancient assumption that life and intelligence are something other than Spirit, God. Christ Jesus graphically exposed this impersonal evil element when he said to those who sought to kill him: "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning He is a liar, and the father of it."⁴

Might not this murderer and liar be the strong man Jesus referred to on another occasion: "How can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house"? ⁵ Not only is this carnal mind a liar; the liar is in every case mortal mind, not merely a mortal person. Believing that the basic criminal is the mortal person and combating crime on this basis is like snipping off the leaves of poison ivy while the vine—much less the root—remains untouched.

Christian Scientists will help arrest crime in all its phases—organized, white-collar, poverty-bred—only as they annihilate the father of lies by recognizing that he is himself a lie, a futile, powerless denial of God's infinitude. And they will more successfully discern the nothingness of this so-called mind as they cast out of themselves the fear, sensuality, and self-will that make up mortal thought. Doing so, they will be more than law-abiding people with concern for social tranquillity. They will embody the obedience to divine law that alone gives the power to heal. They will eliminate from their own mental ivy beds whatever would choke spiritual consciousness, the only vantage point from which evil's unreality can become apparent and be thereby destroyed.

It is clear that mortal mind cannot bind itself. When efforts to contain crime are based on fear, hatred, or appeasement, the results can only be cosmetic at best. Jesus knew that nothing but "the Spirit of God"⁶ can effectively cast out devils and reveal the kingdom of God. His healing proofs of God's exclusive claim to intelligence and control showed the activity of the Christ binding the strong man. Christian Science gives us the means—and the demand—to bind the strong man today.

¹ Ex. 20:3; ² Rom. 8:7; ³ *Science and Health*, p. 105; ⁴ John 8:44; ⁵ Matt. 12:29; ⁶ v. 28.

EDITORIALS

GEOFFREY J. BARRATT, EDITOR

NAOMI PRICE, NATHAN A. TALBOT, ASSOCIATE EDITORS

The best defense

We hear much about defense—against disease, political enemies, inflation, and so on. The most effectual posture we can take in any circumstance is a spiritual one.

God, Spirit, by His very character of omnipotence and omnipresence, is perfectly self-defending—meaning that God's universality is eternally established and so any occasion for defense does not arise for God. Man (and what a radical concept this is to human thought) is not a little, threatened temporal entity, but the actual reflection of God. Man cannot be faced by anything that God is not faced by. Knowing this is our best defense against discord, failure, illness, accident. To enjoy a more secure life, we must identify ourselves as Love's reflection and, piece by piece, lay aside the mortal sense of ourselves. The need is to place our sense of ourselves, our home, our substance, our church and environment, in Spirit, not in matter.

Carelessness in doing this is spiritually indefensible for the Christian Scientist. Is there a paradox here? Must we defend ourselves against unrealities? Doesn't Science tell us evil is unreal?

From a human point of view, we certainly do have an individual responsibility to know that we are one with self-defensive Truth. Doing so we will fight off and negate claims of sickness and extinction. We must know that all spiritual concepts (and there are only spiritual concepts, never are there any genuine material ones) originate in Spirit, stay with Spirit, and are encompassed by Spirit.

It is not a case of trying to surround ourselves with a protective shell of religious thinking and human good works. Defense implies action, mental and spiritual action. We must be innocent of evil—and are so in our real being—but not naive about evil. We must do something to look after ourselves. Mary Baker Eddy asks: "Can eternity end? Can Life die? Can Truth be uncertain? Can Love be less than boundless?" And further along she states: "Know, then, that you possess sovereign power to think and act rightly, and that nothing can dispossess you of this heritage and trespass on Love. If you maintain this position, who or what can cause you to sin or suffer? Our surety is in our confidence that we are indeed dwellers in Truth and Love, man's eternal mansion."¹

Just as we must identify ourselves with man, Mind's idea, so we must identify our church with the spiritual concept given in Mrs. Eddy's definition of "Church": "The structure of Truth and Love; whatever rests upon and proceeds from divine Principle."² Church, the divine idea of Love, is as real and present as is man, Love's immortal reflection. Mentally and spiritually caring for our sense of the one, we do much toward caring for our sense of the other. It is in our own thought that the concepts need defense. Thus we prove that man and Church are inviolate. Divine concepts can never fail. We need to defend our thought, and so defend our experience, against aggressive claims of mortal thought that spiritual ideas can fade.

The Bible says Nehemiah succeeded in building the wall, despite contemptuous human skepticism, because he trusted God as the true defender of man. He built the wall, one might say, not as a *primary* defense against the enemy, but as the outcome—the illustration—of his faith in God as the great defender.

Sometimes we may unthinkingly slip into defending mortal belief. This is what we do when we attempt to excuse ourselves for apathy or indifference to important values and to spiritual

obligations. Mortal belief would defend itself against Truth—and we certainly should not take its part. Error has no power and hence no effective defenses. The only action error can take is to collapse in upon itself.

In their advancing years, some people may face a small surge of arguments of defenselessness. These arguments are as untrue in advancing years as at any other stage of life. Identifying oneself with Soul's man annuls claims of fragility and frailness. Man is never vulnerable, regardless of what conventional mortal thought may assert or predict. To know this is to cope with our affairs with an undiminished sense of intelligence and good judgment. We always have sovereign power to think rightly about whatever we need to decide, and we can exercise that power. The calendar cannot talk. But divine Love can and does. It tells us about permanent substance, and about our ever-acute spiritual faculties. Listening to Love, we hear the ideas, the spiritual truths, with which we can flatten any ripples or waves of helplessness. Because God is our Mind and He is forever, we can never be helpless. To human sense, we may believe that we are so, but we can never actually be so. What we need to shed is not the helplessness—there is none, spiritually speaking—but the empty claim of helplessness.

In the *Manual of The Mother Church*, our Leader, Mrs. Eddy, tells us: "It shall be the duty of every member of this Church to defend himself daily against aggressive mental suggestion, and not be made to forget nor to neglect his duty to God, to his Leader, and to mankind. By his works he shall be judged,—and justified or condemned."³ This is a firm demand on Christian Scientists for their individual defensive work. It is one that can be met through scientific demonstration.

GEOFFREY J. BARRATT

¹ *Pulpit and Press*, p. 3; ² *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, p. 583;
³ *Man.*, Art. VIII, Sect. 6.

If we make a mistake

There was little doubt in my mind. Surely I had made the right decision. After all, I had prayed quite a bit over the step. But once I had made the decision, there was a tendency to confirm it and hold rigidly to it just because so much prayer had led to my conclusion.

The temptation was to feel that a change would be disloyal to what I was sure God had originally told me. But finally I was led to alter my direction. And the reversal proved right.

When we listen closely for God's guidance, we can expect to discern His spiritual ideas and then feel a growing certainty about the steps we should take. And normally those steps are precisely the ones that will bring the greatest blessings to everyone involved. A pure motive, the honest desire to follow divine impulse, trust in Mind's government—all these factors help us move in the proper direction. God will bring to light the truths of being. We can let those truths guide our steps. And when we know for sure that we are moving rightly, nothing should be permitted to deter us. But we do need to pursue our course with a genuine willingness to continue listening for divine Mind's leadings.

The point is, people do sometimes mistake what God is telling them. And only if our prayers are followed by a humble willingness to listen further, rather than a human willfulness to do what we presume He has said, will we be sure to know what is right. The right motive, the trust, the humility, enable us to keep close to God during times when we make challenging decisions. Mrs. Eddy assures us: "The good cannot lose their God, their help in times of trouble. If they mistake the divine command, they will recover it, countermand their order, retrace their steps, and reinstate His orders, more assured to press on safely."¹

A good deal of courage may be required in order to modify or

even entirely switch a position we may have stuck to on a given issue. A couple of basic admissions can be helpful if we ever feel deep down that perhaps we were wrong about something but really don't see how to make a change at this late date. The first admission is that people can err. The second is that divine Mind cannot err.

The first usually isn't too hard for us to make—as long as we're talking about the other fellow. But there may be times we need to recognize that we ourselves haven't yet listened closely or faithfully enough to see all that Mind has to reveal to us. There is no disgrace in an open willingness to listen more carefully, to pray more earnestly, and then be prepared to follow—even if we are led in a fresh, unexpected direction.

The second admission—that Mind cannot err—is the essential metaphysical truth that firms up our certainty we are moving in the right direction, or else pulls us to a stop and points out a better way. Sometimes we get the first and second admissions a little mixed up. We think that we couldn't possibly have been mistaken. But we need to keep things straight. People do mistake from time to time. It's divine Mind that never mistakes.

The reason a Christian Scientist may think he isn't mistaken on a given issue is that he is beginning to learn something of his relationship to divine Mind—that in reality, he is an expression of Mind. But the question is whether he has learned enough about that relationship to honestly relinquish a personal opinion and submit entirely to the eternal and unchanging truths that Mind knows.

There is only one Mind. This is the reality of being; and we can claim it squarely on the authority of Christ Jesus' assurance, reiterating the great teaching of the older Scriptures: "The Lord our God is one Lord."² Man represents one Mind; his purpose in life is to express all the implications of the eternal fact that Mind is

One. That Mind, because it knows all there is to know, cannot err. Mrs. Eddy writes: "Omnipotent and infinite Mind made all and includes all. This Mind does not make mistakes and subsequently correct them."³ A growing understanding of this profound truth and a clearer realization that man expresses Mind's perfection can give strong direction, and, if necessary, even correction to the decisions we make. These spiritual facts do lead us into the most appropriate human footsteps. And the closer we come to these truths, the more effectively they will help us retrace any mistaken steps and proceed in conformity with wiser directions.

Ultimately we will fully prove that there is only one Mind and that Mind never mistakes. As we work toward that full proof, we ought to have enough humility to think carefully and wisely about whether there may be more inspiration and guidance needed in certain situations. And if more thought is required and changes appear necessary, we can trust God to give us the courage to make the needed adjustments and to "reinstate His orders."

We should never be pushed out of a choice that is right, but we should also be clearheaded enough to see a difference between the unchanging rightness of divine Mind and the fact that we may not yet have fully demonstrated that truth.

NATHAN A. TALBOT

¹ *Miscellaneous Writings*, p. 10; ² Mark 12:29; ³ *Science and Health*, p. 206.

“Try the spirits”

Miriam K. Bailey

I have a little friend who goes to the Christian Science Sunday School. Kim loves God and tries always to obey the Commandments and the Beatitudes. She succeeds most of the time, but one day she was tricked. It happened like this.

Kim and her good friend were in the school restroom after lunch, and her friend suggested they write something on the wall. Kim didn't want to at first, but her friend kept urging her until she said she would. Kim started to write "I like Miss White," her third-grade teacher, but her friend said no and then told her some other words to write and even how to spell them. Kim didn't know the words or what they meant, but she felt they were naughty—and they were. Kim wrote them all.

JUN 2, 1968

God's love for us. Of brotherly love because he laid down his life for us; we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

But whoso hath this world's good,
seeth his brother have need, and
setth up his bowels of compassion
in him, how dwelleth the love of God
in him?

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

Beloved, if our heart condemn us, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we knew his commandments, and do those things that are written in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his dear Christ Jesus, and love one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. I hereby we know that he abideth in us by the Spirit which he hath given us.

CHAPTER 4

BELoved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

2 Hereby know ye the spirit of God
Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus
Christ is come in the flesh is of God
3 And every spirit that confesseth
that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is
not of God; and this is that spirit of anti-
christ, whereof ye have heard that
he should come; and even now already is it
in the world.

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

5 They are of the world: speak they of the world, yet heareth them.



Nothing happened for several weeks. Then one morning Miss White called Kim and her friend out into the hall. She asked if they had written the bad words in the restroom. The truth finally came out, and Kim was very embarrassed. She had to write a note to her mom and dad telling what had happened, and the note had to be signed by them. When she got home and showed it, Mother was sad, but she understood what had happened.

Mother picked up a Bible and turned to I John 4:1, where a follower of Christ Jesus says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." Since Kim wasn't sure what that meant, she and her mother talked first about the word "spirit." Kim knew that "Spirit," with a capital S, means God, but her mother said that "spirit" with a small s could mean thoughts or ideas, or even what you hear or see.

The next word they discussed was "try." Kim knew that courts try cases and that people go on trial to find out if they are guilty or innocent of a crime. Mother said that each of us should try the thoughts that come to us—and everything we hear and see—to find out if they are good or bad. The last word they talked about was "prophet." In *Science and Health* Mrs. Eddy has this interpretation of the Bible word "prophet": "A spiritual seer; disappearance of material sense before the conscious facts of spiritual Truth."¹ A "false prophet," then, would be anything that would tell a lie about Spirit, God, or about man, God's likeness.

They also remembered how Eve had been tricked into disobeying God by listening to the lies the snake told her. They both agreed that it was silly to do something you knew was wrong just because someone else wanted you to do it. You would be the one to suffer for the mistake, even though you hadn't thought it up in the first place.

The next day Kim and Mother went to see Miss White. Kim told her how sorry she was and promised never to write on walls in public places again. Miss White was happy. Mother was happy. Kim was happy and wiser because now she knew how to "try the spirits" to see "whether they are of God."

¹ *Science and Health*, p. 593.

TESTIMONIES

OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALING

The statements made in these testimonies with regard to healings have been carefully verified. The original testimonies and their respective verifications are on file for reference with The Christian Science Publishing Society.

—The Editors.

Prayer brings release from treason charge

I was a pupil in a Christian Science Sunday School in eastern Germany, where firm faith and love for God were planted in my consciousness. Through all my life this Science has provided me with purpose and direction; it has never left me comfortless. God and man are inseparable; therefore man is never helpless or alone.

During my service in the German forces during World War II there were dark hours and great challenges. At one time I was arrested by the Gestapo and charged with treason because soldiers in my command had been caught delivering fuel to the underground. This crime was punishable by death, and it was left up to me to prove my innocence. As the commanding officer, in the eyes of the Gestapo I was responsible for the activities of the men who had been caught, even though I had actually been ignorant of them. But I had no proof of my innocence, and my word was not sufficient.

I never felt so grateful for my Sunday School years as at that time. The prayers I had learned sustained me with the assurance of divine power as I pondered them in utter sincerity. I felt as the Psalmist must have when he wrote this verse (Ps. 139:11): "If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me." My mental darkness gave way to an inspired feeling of God's presence and love, and this brought me peace of mind. All fear vanished.

After one night in custody I was released without

any explanation and no further questioning. Mary Baker Eddy begins the first chapter of *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* with this statement (p. 1): "The prayer that reforms the sinner and heals the sick is an absolute faith that all things are possible to God,—a spiritual understanding of Him, an unselfed love." This truth had never been so magnificently confirmed to me as in that instance.

A few years ago in my business I was sued by a customer for a rather large amount of money. She claimed damages had been caused through negligence on the part of my company. These claims, which she backed up with sworn statements, were not true at all. But the judgment was given in her favor, and I was ordered to pay the damages, which I did.

I prayed to know what should be done next. At first I thought of appealing the judgment, for I was truly innocent of any wrongdoing. But I decided that instead of appealing to the court I would trust the wisdom and justice of God to uncover the lie. How the situation would be resolved I did not speculate. Soon my inner peace returned—I felt no malice toward my accuser—and I actually forgot all about the incident.

Two or three months later I received a letter from this same individual, in which she admitted in a most humble way the wrong she had done in obtaining the court judgment. She told me that since that time she had become a sincere Bible student and this had made it impossible for her to live with the lie of her actions. She had found no rest until she decided to correct her mistake. Enclosed with the letter was a check for the amount of money I had given her after the court ruling. I rejoiced, not only for the returned money, but for the proof of the power of God, Truth, to uncover error and bless the receptive heart.

Physical healings have also proved to me that Christian Science never fails when we wholly rely on it and practice it properly. I was severely injured in a traffic accident a couple of months before I planned to leave Germany to live in the United States. The physicians at the hospital to which I was taken told me my leg would probably need to be amputated because of the injuries. The leg had sustained seven fractures along with other damages.

I immediately requested treatment from a Christian Science practitioner, and within a few days there was such improvement that the physicians no longer felt amputation was necessary. They agreed to set the leg, although they warned me that I would have to be in traction for six months, and that even then I would be a cripple for the rest of my life.

I regained use of my leg within a short time, and I was walking with a cane after just four weeks. The doctors were astonished. My condition continued to improve, and after a few more weeks I had to pass a thorough physical examination in order to obtain an immigration visa to the United States. One condition of qualification for this visa was total freedom from any physical handicap. After the examiners saw me they scrupulously reviewed my accident record. In disbelief they insisted that I stand and walk back and forth in front of them to prove that I could walk freely. When I identified myself as a Christian Scientist, my perfect mobility no longer seemed incredible to them, and the entry visa was granted.

As we learn how to pray and to feel the allness of our Father-Mother God, the healing presence of the Christ becomes tangible in our lives with blessings beyond measure. I am grateful to Mrs. Eddy, our Leader, for establishing her Church, and for the privilege of supporting its mission in the world today.

KURT E. SIEBERT
Boston, Massachusetts

Stolen goods returned

I was brought up in Christian Science and attended the Sunday School. At an early age I had a healing of a severe headache while my mother was reading a hymn by Mrs. Eddy. I remember that after suddenly feeling well I pleaded with her to read me all the hymns. However, it wasn't until my early twenties that I decided to take up the study of this Science seriously. The following incident prompted my decision.

While visiting a close friend in the country for the weekend, I no-

ticed that a building on her property had been broken into. We investigated and discovered that many valuable antiques were missing. My friend was very upset and remarked that it was typical of people to steal in this day and age. From my study of Science I knew the claim that man is a thief or robber was a lie of mortal mind, and I asked her if I could work this problem out in Christian Science. She relented but was extremely doubtful, and looked at me as though I had become a bit daft!

I went upstairs to study, shut the door, and opened *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy. Then I thought, "Oh dear, I have no clue what to work on." So I prayed humbly to God to tell me what I should include in my specific prayer, and the answer came, just as if someone were in the room: "Forgiveness." One statement from the Lord's Prayer, with its spiritual interpretation by Mrs. Eddy, was tremendously helpful (p. 17):

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And Love is reflected in love."

I realized that man is not a robber, but is, in fact, God's idea, never for an instant reflecting anything but good, surrounded at all times by divine Love, and expressing that Love. I rebuked the suggestion that animal magnetism had power to use individuals—implying that they were without good and had to steal, or that they could gain something by stealing. I also felt the antiques should be returned. Mrs. Eddy says (*ibid.*, p. 5), "Sin is forgiven only as it is destroyed by Christ,—Truth and Life."

Then I turned my thought to God and said, "Please give me a clearer understanding of love and forgiveness." An overwhelming peace descended upon me, and I smiled. I had such a feeling of joy and spiritual conviction that as I bounced down the stairs I looked at my friend and said, "All your things will be returned."

The next night her caretaker phoned and said that he had received an anonymous phone call from a woman who hurriedly told him where the belongings were, then hung up. Following the caller's directions, we drove out to an old abandoned barn, and there were all the antiques, neatly packed in boxes. While unpacking one of them, my friend found a note that included a plea for forgiveness

and stated, "There is strength and weakness in men, and sometimes the weakness overtakes one." I then thought of a passage I had studied in *The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany* by Mrs. Eddy (p. 287): "Divine Love reforms, regenerates, giving to human weakness strength, serving as admonition, instruction, and governing all that really is."

God has been guiding me continually and meeting my needs. I'm very grateful to be serving as Second Reader of our branch church.

SUSAN SAMPLES
Weehawken, New Jersey

Freed from smoking and drinking

Although my mother had been a student of Christian Science for over thirty years, it was not until my father's passing, when I saw her wonderful fortitude in the face of this separation, that I thought there could be anything in Science to help me. When I spoke to her about this, she gave me a copy of *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy, saying, "I think you are ready for it now."

As I studied this book together with the King James Bible, I found that the desire for liquor left me within a few weeks, although I had been a hard drinker. I was also freed from a craving for cigarettes (I had been a chain smoker).

During the Second World War, I was diagnosed by a military doctor as suffering from cardiac degeneration, but I was able to serve overseas. Today I feel fit and am able to run for a bus without difficulty. With the help of Christian Science practitioners at various times, I have been healed of a distressing skin condition, bowel trouble, and a tendency toward rheumatism.

Some months ago, when I was leaving to go shopping with my wife, I fell down some stone steps. I returned to my flat and telephoned a practitioner, who immediately prayed for me. Then, confident of God's protective care that sustains His child, I continued on to the shops. Onlookers who had seen me fall and had kindly helped me to my feet said I would surely suffer some ill effects, but

this was not so. To a neighbor who expressed surprise at my well-being, I replied I had been helped in Christian Science. In *Science and Health* is this assertion (p. 214): "Neither age nor accident can interfere with the senses of Soul, and there are no other real senses."

I am happy to share with others the great benefits that have come to me through the operation of this wonderful Science.

FRANK WILLIAM LIGHT
London, England

Integrity is basic to God's man

For many years I have been blessed by numerous evidences that the Christ, Truth, is thoroughly at work in the human consciousness, bringing redemption and healing.

One day I suffered second-degree burns on a foot and leg. Despite excruciating pain, there was never the slightest temptation to use any remedy but the application of Christian Science. The fact that matter is unreal, hence sensationless, had to be kept firmly in mind. Spirit, God, is the only force that determines and governs man's being. This healing, though not instantaneous, left no scars. It was a wonderful proof of God's care.

Another time, a diamond ring representing great sentimental and monetary value was stolen from me. My two desires were to know that the man of God's creating expresses integrity, and that when Christian Science is understandingly applied, it is seen to be triumphant. Mrs. Eddy reminds us (*Science and Health*, p. 71): "Evil has no reality. It is neither person, place, nor thing, but is simply a belief, an illusion of material sense." God's man is spiritually sound, incorruptible. The circumstances surrounding the recovery of the ring, including the regret expressed by the man who took it, left me feeling that only Christian Science could have brought such a satisfying solution.

One night I suffered an attack that affected my heart. For over two days the heart felt as though it were stopping after each beat, and the beats were so far apart that the next one seemed doubtful. I

was completely alone, and the Christian Science practitioner I called for help through prayer lived quite a few miles away. But I knew that God was with me, that Truth and Love were sustaining me. This awareness gave me a feeling of happiness. The heart action soon normalized, and I was completely free.

Since there is only one other Scientist living in my vicinity, periodicals have become my valuable friends. If each day does bring trials, it also brings opportunities to prove the healing efficacy of divine Science, and I am profoundly thankful for this. As a member of The Mother Church for sixty years, I find that every year has deepened my gratitude for Science, for our wonderful Way-shower, Christ Jesus, and for our beloved Leader, Mrs. Eddy.

MINERVA RICKETTS WILLIAMS
Farmville, Virginia

Abscess healed through mental surgery

[Original in German]

About twenty years ago I suffered for some time from painful abscesses in both ears. Medical treatment had brought me no relief. Finally I accepted the advice of a relative and turned to Christian Science. At the very moment I decided to contact a Christian Science practitioner, something snapped in the ear that was currently affected, the abscess drained, and the condition never recurred.

To be sure, I carried out my intention to visit the practitioner—no longer on account of my ears but because a solution was needed for a distressing relationship problem. I had listened to erroneous suggestions for a long time. Now I had to learn to listen to God—to accept His plan, and this brought harmony and peace to all concerned. There were great blessings, and I often felt the loving care of our Father-Mother God.

With the prayer of a practitioner, our family quickly overcame all difficulties in building a house, as the governing power of divine Principle was acknowledged. During that time, and ever since, I have received many physical healings. More important, I am in-

creasingly certain that our reason for being is to glorify God in everything we do. Christian Science class instruction continues to prove an invaluable help in expanding and deepening my spiritual understanding.

Three years ago pain suddenly developed in my arms and legs. It robbed me of sleep at night and severely restricted mobility. Despite the prayer of a close friend and my own intensive study of the Bible and *Science and Health* by Mrs. Eddy, there was relief but not a complete healing. I then spoke with my Christian Science teacher, who wisely urged me to become strongly aware that there is truly only one Mind, God. In reality man can know and feel only what emanates from God, because the so-called mortal mind is a myth. I reasoned this way before retiring each night. Soon the pains had left. I could sleep again and was free.

There have been many occasions when God's omnipotence was proved in a wonderful manner. Once someone owed me a considerable amount of money, which was not paid within the agreed time. An occasional inquiry always brought a further promise but no results. I shied away from a personal visit and turned to the bank for help; they kindly wrote the party a letter, which remained unanswered.

Now I began to pray earnestly. I pondered this petition from the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:12): "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." I realized that divine Love truly supplies all needs, and that everyone possesses the ability to express Christlike qualities, such as honesty, responsiveness, and brotherly love. No loss can result from the expression of these qualities. While up to this time my inquiries at the bank had met with no success, one day I learned to my great joy that the debt had been completely paid off.

The application of Christian Science has brought me endless blessings. I am very grateful for every one, because each signifies that another claim of evil has been destroyed through the supremacy of divine Truth. Daily I am learning to walk with Christ, and this is my greatest treasure.

MARGOT OSCHMANN
Neumarkt, Federal Republic of Germany

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LECTURES

Everyone is cordially invited to these free lectures

These free lectures are designed to introduce the teachings of Christian Science to the public. They are sponsored by local Churches of Christ, Scientist, and given by members of The Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

‡ Indicates that a Children's Room is available during the lecture.

* Indicates that details such as time, place, or title are missing from the listing. Please see local publicity for this information.

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland: Nov 5, Mon, "Why Spiritual Healing?" (McClain)*

Takapuna: Nov 4, Sun, "Where in the World Is God?" (McClain)*

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Darmstadt: Oct 23, Tues, 7.30pm‡ (Timpson) Georg-Moller-Haus (Loge) Sandstr 10*

Reutlingen: Oct 21, Sun, 4pm‡, in German, "The Royal Law" (Timpson) Aula, Ferdinand-von-Steinbeis-Schule, Karlstr 40

ENGLAND

WEST MIDLANDS—Sutton Coldfield: Nov 20, Tues, 8pm‡, "The Royal Law" (Timpson) Church, Maney Corner

SCOTLAND

STRATHCLYDE—Glasgow (First): Dec 10, Mon, "The Royal Law" (Timpson)*

CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA—Kamloops: Sept 20, Thurs, 8pm‡, "The Touch of Spirit" (Clarke) Church, 1152 Nicola st

Kelowna: Sept 21, Fri, 8pm, "The Language of Soul" (Clarke) Recreation Complex, Spall rd, Hwy 97N

Nanaimo: Sept 23, Sun, 3pm, "Spiritual Man Discovered" (Tyler) Malaspina College Theatre

Vancouver: Oct 1, Mon, 8pm‡, "God's Man or Adam's Man?" (Jones) Church, 1160 W Georgia st

NOVA SCOTIA—Halifax: Sept 30, Sun, 3pm, "A New Beginning" (Jenkins) Lecture Theatre, Nova Scotia Technical College, 5410 Spring Garden rd

UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

(Week of September 30 thru October 6 and some earlier dates)

Tucson: Oct 1, Mon, 8pm‡, "The Three Great Christian Demands" (Hawks) Little Theatre, Community Center, 350 S Church

Arcata: Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm‡, "What's Your Greatest Need?" (Alton) Odd Fellows Hall, 1575 L st

Auburn: Oct 6, Sat, 11am‡, "Spiritual Man Discovered" (Tyler) Church, 190 Finley st

Beverly Hills: Sept 25, Tues, 8pm‡, "God's Man or Adam's Man?" (Jones) Church, 142 S Rexford dr

Burbank: Sept 27, Thurs, 8pm‡, "God's Man or Adam's Man?" (Jones) Church, 510 N Buena Vista st

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LECTURES

Crescent City: Oct 2, Tues, 7.30pm‡, "Spiritual Man Discovered" (Tyler) Masonic Temple, 9th and B sts

Fresno: Oct 2, Tues, 8pm‡, "God's Mandate to Live" (Leedom) Church, 1615 N st

La Jolla: Oct 5, Fri, 8pm‡, "The Three Great Christian Demands" (Hawks) Church, 1270 Silverado

Menlo Park: Sept 30, Sun, 3pm‡, "God's Mandate to Live" (Leedom) Church, 201 Ravenswood av

Oxnard: Oct 6, Sat, 3pm‡, "Our God-given Courage" (Karst) Community Center, 800 Hobson Way

Red Bluff: Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm‡, "Spiritual Man Discovered" (Tyler) Church, 956 Jackson st

Redding: Oct 2, Tues, 8pm‡, "Have You Found Yourself?" (Alton) Church, 1451 Court st

Sacramento: Oct 1, Mon, 8pm‡, "God's Mandate to Live" (Leedom) Church, 1228 23d st

St Helena: Oct 6, Sat, 3pm‡, "What's Your Greatest Need?" (Alton) St Helena Elementary School, 1325 Adams st

San Luis Obispo: Oct 6, Sat, 2pm‡, "God's Mandate to Live" (Leedom) Madonna Plaza Theatre, 243½ Madonna rd

Sebastopol: Oct 5, Fri, 8pm‡, "God Is Your Provider" (Alton) Church, 7350 Bodega av

Wofford Heights: Oct 4, Thurs, 7.30pm, "God's Mandate to Live" (Leedom) Church, 125 Sycamore st

Yreka: Oct 1, Mon, 8pm‡, "God Is Your Provider" (Alton) Community Center, 809 N Oregon

COLORADO **Denver:** Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm‡, "God's Man or Adam's Man?" (Jones) Church, S Grant st at E Bayaud av

Denver: Sept 20, Thurs, 8pm‡, "God's Man or Adam's Man?" (Jones) Church, 3101 W 31st av

ILLINOIS **Chicago:** Sept 30, Sun, 5pm‡, "The Healing Power of God in Business" (Charbeneau) Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 W Addison st

Chicago: Oct 6, Sat, 7.30pm‡, "There Is a Way Out—God's Way" (Kyser) Church, 1713 W Sunnyside av

Downers Grove: Sept 30, Sun, 3pm‡, "The Consciousness of the Healing Christ" (Grant) Church, 1101 Curtiss st

INDIANA **Crown Point:** Sept 27, Thurs, 8pm‡, "The Healing Power of God in Business" (Charbeneau)*

Huntington: Oct 2, Tues, 8pm, "Prayer Is Effective in Our Economy" (Leever) Church, Tipton and Warren sts

Indianapolis: Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm‡, "Prayer Is Effective in Our Economy" (Leever) Church, 2740 Kessler blv, North dr

Mishawaka: Oct 5, Fri, 8pm‡, "Spiritual Healing and the Church Today" (Aghamalian) Church, 833 Lincolnway East

IOWA **Davenport:** Oct 2, Tues, 7.30pm‡, "The Consciousness of the Healing Christ" (Grant) Clayton House, E River dr at LeClaire st

Waterloo: Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm, "The Consciousness of the Healing Christ" (Grant) Fireside Chapel, First United Methodist Church, 614 Randolph

MAINE **Bath:** Sept 30, Sun, 3pm‡, "Christian Science and the Worth of Man" (Rennie) Church, 57 North st

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SENTINEL

Kennebunk: Sept 16, Sun, 2.30pm‡, "Christ—The Light Shining in Darkness" (Jeffery) First Congregational Parish, Unitarian, Main and Portland rd (Rte 1) Note place

MARYLAND **Easton:** Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm, "There Is a Way Out—God's Way" (Kyser) Meeting rm, Talbot County Library, Court and West sts

MASSACHUSETTS **Chatham:** Sept 30, Sun, 3pm‡, "What Christian Science Teaches About Intelligence" (Tainsh) Church, Main st at Queen Anne rd

Concord: Oct 2, Tues, 8pm‡, "A New Beginning" (Jenks) Church, Mon mouth sq

Duxbury: Oct 6, Sat, 11am‡, "Honesty—The Power of Its Deeper Dimension" (Rennie) First Parish Church, Tremont st (Rte 3A)

Greenfield: Oct 2, Tues, 8pm‡, "Honesty—The Power of Its Deeper Dimension" (Rennie) Church, 463 Main st

Harwich Port: Oct 5, Fri, 8pm‡, "A New Beginning" (Jenks) Parish Hall Pilgrim Congregational Church, Main st

Hyannis: Oct 6, Sat, 8pm‡, "Christian Science and the Worth of Man" (Rennie) Church, Bearse's Way at Stevens st

Newburyport: Oct 1, Mon, 8pm, "Something to Depend On" (Jenks)*

Newtonville: Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm‡, "What Christian Science Teaches About Intelligence" (Tainsh) Church, 391 Walnut st

Springfield: Oct 1, Mon, 7.30pm‡, "Christian Science and the Worth of Man" (Rennie) Church, 599 State st

MICHIGAN **Alma:** Sept 30, Sun, 3.30pm‡, "Prayer Is Effective in Our Economy" (Leever) Church, Woodworth at Hastings

Cheboygan: Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm‡, "The Healing Power of God in Business" (Charbeneau) Church, 326 S Huron st

Hancock: Sept 30, Sun, 2pm‡, "Spiritual Healing and the Church Today" (Aghamalian) Conference rm, Copper Crown Motel, 235 Hancock st

Kalamazoo: Oct 1, Mon, 12.10pm‡, "Quit Conspiring Against Yourself!" (Leever) Parkview rm, YWCA, 211 S Rose st

Ludington: Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm‡, "Diana or Christ?" (Aghamalian) Church 400 E Filer st

Marquette: Oct 5, Fri, 8pm‡, "The Healing Power of God in Business" (Charbeneau) Church, 225 Blaker st

Petoskey: Oct 2, Tues, 8pm‡, "Spiritual Healing and the Church Today" (Aghamalian) High School, E Mitchell rd

Troy: Sept 27, Thurs, 8pm‡, "Living Totally in the Spiritual Context" (Bayless) Somerset Inn, 2601 W Big Beaver rd

Wyandotte: Sept 30, Sun, 3pm‡, "Evil: Its Nature and Demise" (Spence) Church, 2808 Van Alstyne blv

MONTANA **Billings:** Oct 2, Tues, 8pm‡, "The Life That Is Worth Living" (Henniker-Heaton) Church, Burlington and Division sts

Butte: Oct 1, Mon, 8pm‡, "Can I Truly Be Myself?" (Henniker-Heaton) Church, 229 N Montana st

Kalispell: Sept 17, Mon, 8pm‡, "Spiritual Man Discovered" (Tyler) Sons of Norway Hall, 347 1st av, E

NEVADA **Fallon:** Oct 5, Fri, 8pm, "Spiritual Man Discovered" (Tyler)*

NEW HAMPSHIRE **Dover:** Sept 27, Thurs, 7.30pm‡, "Honesty—The Power of Its Deeper Dimension" (Rennie) Church, 604 Central av Note time and place

NEW JERSEY

Englewood: Oct 5, Fri, 8.30pm‡, "Do You Need a Change of Heart?" (Mondino) Church, Engle st and Spring lane

Morristown: Sept 29, Sat, 3pm, "The Direct Relationship Between God and Man" (Williams) Morris Museum of Arts and Sciences, Normandy Hgts rd at Columbia rd

Newark: Oct 6, Sat, 3pm‡, "Life Without Lack" (Mondino) Church, 475 Mt Prospect av

Orange: Sept 30, Sun, 3pm‡, "Christ—The Light Shining in Darkness" (Jeffery) Church, 24 Cleveland st

Sparta: Oct 1, Mon, 8pm‡, "Christ—The Light Shining in Darkness" (Jeffery) Church, 144 Woodport rd

Summit: Oct 2, Tues, 8.30pm‡, "Life Without Lack" (Mondino) Church, 292 Springfield av

Westfield: Oct 4, Thurs, 8.30pm‡, "Do You Need a Change of Heart?" (Mondino) Church, 422 E Broad st

NEW YORK

Brooklyn: Sept 30, Sun, 3pm‡, "The Direct Relationship Between God and Man" (Williams) Church, 156 Sterling place

Hempstead: Oct 4, Thurs, 8pm‡, "Christ—The Light Shining in Darkness" (Jeffery) Church, 155 Fulton av

Mamaroneck: Oct 5, Fri, 8.15pm‡, "Christ—The Light Shining in Darkness" (Jeffery) Church, 155 Fenimore rd

Pleasantville: Oct 1, Mon, 8.15pm, "The Direct Relationship Between God and Man" (Williams) Church, 219 Bedford rd

Valley Stream: Oct 6, Sat, 3.30pm (Williams) Church, 77 Hicks st*

OHIO

Avon Lake: Oct 5, Fri, 8pm‡, "Living Totally in the Spiritual Context" (Bayless) Church, 31847 Lake rd

Maumee: Oct 2, Tues, 8pm‡, "The Healing Power of God in Business" (Charbeneau) Gateway Middle School, Gibbs and Sackett

Rocky River: Oct 6, Sat, 8pm‡, "Prayer Is Effective in Our Economy" (Leever)*

OREGON

Ashland: Sept 25, Tues, 8pm‡, "God's Mandate to Live" (Leedom) Ashland Hills Inn, 2525 Ashland st (Exit 14 off I-5)

Coquille: Sept 30, Sun, 2pm‡, "God Is Your Provider" (Alton) Church, 306 N Adams st

Portland: Sept 30, Sun, 3pm‡, "Spiritual Man Discovered" (Tyler) Mount Scott Park United Presbyterian Church, 5512 SE 73d av

UTAH

Salt Lake City (Second): Sept 30, Sun, 4pm‡, "The Life That Is Worth Living" (Henniker-Heaton)*

VIRGINIA

Leesburg: Sept 22, Sat, 3pm‡, "Do You Need a Change of Heart?" (Mondino) Catoctin School, Catoctin circle

WASHINGTON

Coulee Dam: Sept 16, Sun, 3pm, "Have You Found Yourself?" (Alton) City Hall, 300 Lincoln Note date and time change

Kent: Sept 23, Sun, 3pm‡, "God's Man or Adam's Man?" (Jones) Auditorium, Kentridge High School, 12430 SE 208th

Lynnwood: Oct 6, Sat, 11am‡, "The Language of Soul" (Clarke)*

Snoqualmie: Oct 5, Fri, 8pm‡, "The Language of Soul" (Clarke) Middle School, North Bend rd

Spokane: Sept 17, Mon, 8pm‡, "God Is Your Provider" (Alton) Church, E 310 14th av

WISCONSIN

Monroe: Oct 1, Mon, 8pm‡, "The Consciousness of the Healing Christ" (Grant) Idle Hour Mansion, 1421 Mansion dr

NOTICES

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TESTIMONY MEETINGS

Meetings at which testimonies of Christian Science healing are given are held in Christian Science churches on Wednesdays. A cordial invitation to attend these meetings, as well as the Sunday services, is extended to all. Information telling where and when these are held is given in the Director in *The Christian Science Journal*.

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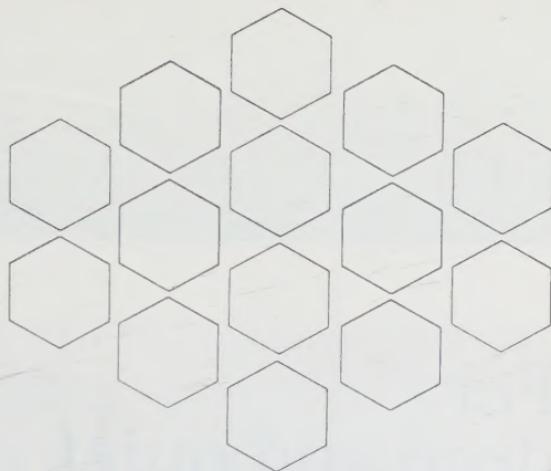
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